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JUNE MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, June 9, at noon, in the Dowse Library; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Department of State of the United States; the Secretary of State of Massachusetts; the American Antiquarian Society; the American Oriental Society; the Chamber of Commerce, New York; the Chicago Historical Society; Union College; J. L. Baker, Esq.; Rev. Charles E. Leverett; Count Jules de Menou; John Wilson and Son; J. R. Thompson, Esq.; Rev. S. Saltmarsh; A. J. Coolidge, Esq.; S. A. Green, M.D.; Rev. E. M. Stone; J. G. R. Farrington, Esq.; George H. Moore, Esq.; and from Messrs. Dana, Everett, Felton, R. Frothingham, jun., Robbins, Savage, Sibley, Webb, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated an acknowledgment, from the Historical Society of New Jersey, of the reception of the volume of Proceedings which had been presented to them by this Society, and their thanks for the gift. The same officer also read letters of acceptance from Williams Latham, Esq., as a Resident, and from H. G. Somerby, Esq., as a Corresponding Member.

The President communicated a letter from Joseph Romilly, Esq., dated Cambridge, Eng., 2d May, 1859, returning thanks to the Society for a copy of the "Proceedings in Memory of Prescott."

The President called the attention of the Society to a valuable donation recently received from their Honorary Member, Count Jules de Menou; being a collection of maps in one large volume, entitled "Atlas des Colonies Angloises en Amérique."

On motion of Mr. EVERETT, — who offered a few remarks in relation to the value of the maps, and the claims of the aged donor to respectful and kindly regard in this country, — the following vote was unanimously passed; viz.: —

Voted, That the thanks of the Massachusetts Historical Society be tendered to their esteemed foreign Honorary Member, Count Jules de Menou, for his very valuable contribution to the archives of the Society.

Hon. CHARLES HUDSON of Lexington and Rev. ROBERT C. WATERSTON of Boston were elected Resident Members, and GEORGE H. MOORE, Esq., of New York, a Corresponding Member, of this Society.

The President presented to the Society, from his stepson, George Derby Welles, a collection of United-States cents in a glass case, — the coinage of each year from 1793 to 1857. Whereupon the following vote, offered by Mr. WASHBURN, was unanimously adopted; viz.: —

Voted, That the Massachusetts Historical Society are happy to acknowledge the valuable and interesting gift of a collection of American copper coinage from 1793 to 1857, which they have this day received from their young patron and friend, George Derby Welles; and that the Secretary be requested to communicate this vote.

The President communicated the following letter, addressed to him by William C. Rives, jun., Esq., accom-

panying a plaster cast, recently taken from a marble medallion likeness of President Madison, in the possession of J. C. McGuire, Esq.: —

43, BEACON STREET, May 21, 1859.

DEAR SIR, — I received a few days ago, from Mr. J. C. McGuire of Washington, a plaster cast, recently taken from a marble medallion likeness in his possession, of President James Madison. The original medallion was executed in 1792 by Ceracchi, a pupil of Canova, and a sculptor of no little celebrity in his day. Mr. McGuire, thinking that the faithful cast of the original is not without historical interest, has requested me to have it framed at his expense, and to offer it through you, in his behalf, to the Historical Society of Massachusetts. I have so far complied with his request as to order it to be suitably framed, and to be delivered to the Society as soon as it shall be ready; which will be in about a fortnight. My contemplated absence from Boston induces me to mention to you Mr. McGuire's offering to the Society sooner than I should otherwise have done. I am very respectfully and truly yours,

WM. C. RIVES, Jun.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

On motion of Mr. WARREN, it was *Voted*, That our cordial thanks be tendered to John C. McGuire, Esq., for the very valuable and beautiful medallion head of James Madison, presented by him to the Society through the hands of William C. Rives, jun., Esq.

Mr. PAIGE announced the death of Dr. Henry Bond, one of the Corresponding Members of this Society. He could not, he said, give an extended notice of his life. He would say briefly, however, that he was grandson of Colonel William Bond, of Revolutionary memory; that

he was born in Watertown, March 21, 1790; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1813, where he remained as tutor about two years; settled as a physician in Concord, N.H.; but removed to Philadelphia in 1819, where he died May 4, 1859, after forty years' faithful devotion to the theory and practice of his profession.

To us, however, he was chiefly known as a local historian and genealogist. His great work, the "History and Genealogies of Watertown," will remain a lasting monument of his industry. It was prepared under the disadvantage of distant residence; but his inexhaustible patience and perseverance overcame that disadvantage, and enabled him to accomplish one of the most thorough works of its kind.

Personally, his modesty of deportment and purity of life endeared him to all his acquaintances; and he will be remembered affectionately by them, not only as an industrious laborer, but as a good man.

The President referred in appropriate terms to the decease of Rev. John Lee of Edinburgh, a Corresponding Member of the Society.

The death of Baron Alexander Von Humboldt was announced by the President in a manner becoming the impressive event. After a simple allusion to the illustrious character and works of the great philosopher and great man, and the loss which the world had sustained in his decease, Mr. WINTHROP, at the instance of the Standing Committee, offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Historical Society, on this their first meeting since the tidings of the death of

Alexander Von Humboldt reached our shores, desire to unite with the scientific and literary world in paying a tribute of respect and homage to the memory of this illustrious philosopher and venerable man; that they remember with peculiar pride, that, for a term of forty years, his name has adorned their honorary rolls; that they cannot forget that the American Continent has furnished the scene of not a few of his most profound researches, and that American institutions were ever the subject of his warmest interest; that they recall with unfeigned sensibility his eager manifestation of respect and reverence for the memory of Washington, even within the few last months of his long and laborious life; and that they are unable to withhold an expression of thankfulness, that a life unsurpassed, if not unequalled, in history, for its contributions to the cause of natural philosophy and science, presents also a noble example of simplicity, integrity, disinterested benevolence, and a world-wide philanthropy.

Resolved, That a certified copy of the above resolution be communicated by the President to the relatives of Baron Humboldt, with an assurance of the deep regret with which we lose from its place at the head of our foreign Honorary Members—where it has so long stood—the name of one whose birth has had its full share, with those of Wellington, Napoleon, and Cuvier, in signalizing the year 1769; and whose death will have concurred, with those of Prescott, Hallam, De Tocqueville,—may the catalogue end there!—in solemnizing the year 1859 to every friend of literature and science.

Mr. TICKNOR, in moving the adoption of the resolutions, paid an appropriate tribute to the memory of Humboldt, whom he had long known personally; briefly sketched the history of his scientific labors and writings; and related several anecdotes of the “great savant,”

whom he characterized as standing at the very head of the learned men of Europe, for the vast extent of his scientific attainments, and the purity and disinterestedness of his character.

Mr. EVERETT followed Mr. Ticknor, and spoke substantially as follows: —

I am not prepared, Mr. President, to pronounce a formal eulogy on our late honored and lamented associate, Alexander Von Humboldt. No one needs it less; and our friend (Mr. Ticknor) who has just taken his seat, and who had greater opportunities than I enjoyed of cultivating intimate personal relations with him, has left nothing unsaid, which belongs to a due notice of his decease. At your particular request, however, sir, I cheerfully add my humble voice to his. It is certainly most becoming, that we should pay this tribute of respect to one who has so long held a place among our honorary members. It is, in fact, no trifling indication of the early growth of his fame, considering the very limited intercourse which then existed between the literary and scientific men of Europe and America, that our Society should so long ago as 1817 have sought the honor of enrolling him among its members.

It is for another reason peculiarly appropriate, that all honor should be paid to his memory on this side of the Atlantic; for the greatest scientific achievement of his life — his American voyage — was performed on the soil of this continent. Here the most laborious years of his life were passed; for his expedition to Siberia in after-life, less laborious even while it lasted, was accomplished in less than a twelve-month. It seemed, indeed, as if a providential interposition guided him to the New World; for it was only after three other projects had been baffled, that the path was unexpectedly opened to America. Having educated himself as a

scientific traveller, he first conceived the plan of travelling in Egypt; but the French invasion under Bonaparte made it necessary to abandon that design. He next thought of attaching himself to the voyage of circumnavigation which the French Government was preparing under Admiral Baudin. The war with Austria broke out, and diverted the funds assigned by the Directory to this expedition. "Cruelly deceived," says he, "in my hopes, and beholding the plans which I had been forming for several years of my life destroyed in a day, I sought, as at a venture, the most expeditious manner of quitting Europe, and plunging into some enterprise which might console me for what I suffered." With these feelings, and having made at Paris the acquaintance of Mr. Skiöldebrand, the Swedish consul at Algiers, he formed a plan for exploring the alpine region of Central Africa. The Swedish frigate which was to transport the consul, Mr. Von Humboldt, and his friend and companion, M. de Bonpland, had not arrived at Marseilles. For two months they expected her in vain; and then learned that she had suffered severely in a storm, and, having put into Cadiz to refit, could not be expected at Marseilles till the spring. They took passage in a Ragusan sloop for Tunis. War broke out between the Tunisian regency and the French republic, which made it unsafe to proceed by that conveyance; and they passed into Spain, hoping to find there the means of transit to Africa. The minister of Saxony at Madrid procured for his enterprising countryman—then thirty years old—a favorable introduction to the President of the Council of the Indies, which resulted in full permission to explore the dominions of Spain in America and the East. This permission was not withdrawn on the fall of M. de Urquijo from power. "During the five years," says Mr. Von Humboldt, "that we traversed the New Continent, we perceived not the least appearance of distrust; and it is grateful to me here to recollect, that in the midst of the most afflicting privations, and struggling against the obstacles which arise

from the savage state of the country, we have never had to complain of the injustice of man."

Nor will it be denied, that Mr. Von Humboldt's literary reputation rests in a good degree on his American expedition, and on the works — scientific, historical, statistical, and miscellaneous — which were the fruit of that expedition. I do not, of course, claim for that remarkable series of publications to take precedence, as a philosophical treatise, or a body of natural science, over the "Cosmos;" but I need not say to the students of Mr. Von Humboldt's writings, that but for his voyage to America, the researches connected with it, the observations in every department of natural history, which he made during the progress of the voyage, and the subsequent studies required for the preparation of the numerous publications in which its results were given to the world, the "Cosmos," in all human probability, would never have been written. I reflect with satisfaction, that I had the privilege, more years ago than I care to enumerate, in an article in the "North-American Review," of which I was then the editor, of submitting to the reading public an account, a very imperfect one I feel most sensibly, but the first, if I mistake not, which had appeared in our language, of all the works then published as the fruits of this ever-memorable expedition. The original works necessary for the preparation of the article, not being at that time in our public libraries, were imported by me for the purpose. The remarkable treatise to which Mr. Ticknor has alluded, the "*Examen Critique de l'Histoire de la Géographie du Nouveau Monde*," had not then appeared; but was, at the time of its publication, imported by me, in order particularly to ascertain the opinions entertained by M. Von Humboldt on the supposed ante-Columbian discovery of this Continent by the Scandinavians."

You have, sir, in the resolutions reported from the Standing Committee, expressed the unanimous opinion of the scientific world, in placing Alexander Von Humboldt at the head of the

men of science, not only of his own, but, I think we may venture to add with the diffidence which ought to attend such a judgment, of any age. He took this rank not only in virtue of what he was, but, if I may hazard the seeming paradox, in virtue, at any rate in spite, of what he was not. Standing, as I have said, by general consent at the head of the republic of science, there was perhaps no one special department in which his superior might not be found on the Continent of Europe, in England, or in this country. There was no one speciality to which he gave himself exclusively; so that it is no derogation from his merit to say, that there were among the men of science, his contemporaries, those who, each in his particular department, had pushed their researches further than he had done. For one such, we need not go beyond this neighborhood. But it belonged to Humboldt to take a comprehensive, an imperial, survey of the whole field of science, and to mould the mass of materials derived from the individual researches of others into one grand system; himself an intellectual "Cosmos" akin to the scientific "Cosmos" of his own formation.

Nothing is more characteristic of his career as a philosopher than the length of time during which his labors, both as an investigator and a writer, were carried on; the continuance of his physical and intellectual activity, long after attaining the age at which the majority of men, weary of toil and satisfied with success, or reconciled to the want of it, sink into repose. He was sixty years old when he undertook his expedition to the Oural and Altai mountains, of which the fruits are recorded in his "*Asie Centrale,—Recherches sur les Chaines de Montagnes et la Climatologie comparée;*" an expedition undertaken with Gustave Rose and Ehrenberg, at the repeated and earnest request of the Russian Emperor, who appropriated large sums to defray the expense. With the exception of the first forty pages of his "Cosmos," he tells us in the preface of the first-published volumes of that work, that it was wholly

written, and for the first time, in the years 1843 and 1844. As he was born in 1769, he must have been seventy-four when he commenced it.

Nor was this physical and mental activity, protracted so long beyond the accepted term of human life (for the fifth volume of "Cosmos" was completed but the last year), the only wonder. Other causes combined to produce his astonishing fertility as a writer. It may be interesting to all, and important to those who are not so far advanced in years as to have formed their habits beyond the hope of change, to know one of the secrets of his physical and scientific life. Living to the age, within a few months, of ninety years, for all purposes of regular scientific research and literary labor, he lived another life of forty or fifty years, in consequence of having accustomed himself, from the time that he grew up to manhood, to about four hours' sleep. I think I can state this on his own authority; for I heard it asserted in his presence, and listened to by him with a smile, which I regarded as one of assent. If, then, we consider four hours of daily study as a pretty good day's work, for one whose time must have been so much broken in upon as his, we may say, that, by contenting himself with four hours' sleep, while the majority of men require eight, he really lived another life of forty or fifty years, in addition to his fourscore years and ten. Whether this was mainly the result of natural constitution, temperate habits, habitual abstinence from the causes of weariness and exhaustion, cheerful temper, or elastic spirits, or in some degree of all combined, I cannot say; probably the latter.

At any rate, his disposition was eminently social. My acquaintance with him commenced in the winter of 1817-18, when I frequently met him in general society in Paris. His company, of course, was greatly sought; and no individual of eminence was more frequently to be met, as far as my means of observation extended, at the dinner-table and in the *salons* of Paris. He was then, as far as I could judge, principally

engaged in those geographical researches, of which the results are given in the work above mentioned. On leaving Paris, he was good enough to give me letters to his brother William, at that time the Prussian Minister in London, with whom it was my good fortune, in that way, to become intimately acquainted. In the year 1842, Baron Alexander Von Humboldt came to London in the suite of the King of Prussia, who visited England to attend the christening of the Prince of Wales; and I then had the satisfaction of renewing my acquaintance with him during his brief stay.' It is scarcely necessary to say, that, at a moment when London was more than usually thronged with the celebrities of Europe, he was the centre of the greatest interest.

Enjoying this world-wide fame, his feelings were not less catholic. Nothing more characterizes his works than the total absence of the spirit of invidious criticism. When other authors are named,—and how few are the contemporary writers of scientific merit who are not named in some part of the long series of his works?—the amplest justice is always done them. In truth, if he erred, it was in the opposite direction. One is sometimes inclined to think that he pushed the habit of kindly appreciation a little too far, and lessened its value by a want of severe discrimination. If he ever falls into this error, it was a fault on the side of generosity, not too common at the present day. To his great credit, Alexander Von Humboldt was wholly free from that carping spirit which can see nothing in a work of science, literature, or art, but its defects; and that hateful temper which seeks to build its own reputation, or that of a favorite, on the ruins of the reputation of a rival or competitor. The long series of his writings may, I believe, be searched in vain for one ill-natured word.

I reflect with some satisfaction, that it was in my power to aid a meritorious young artist of this city, Mr. Wight (to whom we owe the admirable likeness of our great benefactor, Mr. Dowse, which graces this room), in procuring the oppor-

tunity of painting Baron Humboldt. This was a favor, of course, not lightly to be asked of a person so distinguished, whose time was so precious, and whom so many artists were eager to paint and to model. Mr. Wight, however, succeeded so well in a portrait of my much-valued friend, Mr. D. D. Barnard, then Minister of the United States at Berlin, and an intimate friend of Baron Humboldt, that the illustrious philosopher, on seeing the portrait of Mr. Barnard, consented to give our young countryman four long sittings. Mr. Wight succeeded in getting an excellent likeness, which has been well engraved in this city. It is not without a slight resemblance, it may be remarked, to Mr. Dowse himself.

I had some hopes of seeing him again, before either of us should take the great journey. Disappointed in this, it is a subject of pleasing though sad reflection to me, that the same kind feelings, of which he gave me many valued proofs in my younger days, were manifested to my children while on a visit to Berlin the last summer. With "the scarcely legible hand of the old man of eighty-nine," he addresses words of friendly salutation to them, and kindly remembrance to me from "the traveller of the Cordilleras and the steppes of Siberia," the joint character in which he wished his name to descend.

The strange assertion has lately been made, that the "Cosmos" is a system of philosophical atheism, slightly veiled from motives of prudence; and that even the name of God does not occur in it. This last statement is notoriously inaccurate; and, for the first assertion, there is not, as far as I know, the slightest foundation. Humboldt, in this as in his other works, proposes to treat only the phenomena revealed to the senses; but he recognizes the reality of spiritual and moral relations, though justly considering them above the province of demonstrative science. Between him and his brother William, undeniably a man of the deepest religious convictions, there prevailed an entire sympathy; and he cites with approval, from the works of the latter, passages which recognize the

truth of the Christian religion. On the appearance of the Chevalier Bunsen's "Signs of the Times," in 1855, Humboldt rose from its perusal, and, on the same day, addressed a letter of two sheets to the author, expressive of his sympathy and approval. In his last great work, he refers to the Hebrew Scriptures with respect, and even bestows on the hundred and fourth psalm that much-honored name of "Cosmos," which he had appropriated to the crowning work of his literary life. He distinctly recognizes the purifying influence of the new faith, in contrast with the decaying paganism of the ancient world. So far is it from being true, that he "knows nothing of a God in creation," he asserts in terms, that "it was the tendency of the Christian mind to prove, from the order of the universe and the beauty of nature, the greatness and goodness of the Creator;" and he traces the growing taste for natural description, observable in the writers of the new faith, to the tendency "to glorify the Deity in his works."

In denying the imputed atheism of Humboldt, I build nothing on the occurrence of the name of the Supreme Being in his publications. No writers more freely use the great and sacred name than those of the Pantheistic, or, what is the same thing, Atheistic school; meaning, however, not the All-wise, All-powerful BEING who created and who rules, with sovereign intelligence, the heavens and the earth, but the aggregate of existing things; making men and beasts, and trees and stones, and dust and ashes, part and parcel of what they call God.

I cordially second the motion for the adoption of the resolutions on your table.

The Resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

The President announced to the Society, that, immediately after the death of Mr. Prescott, he had, by the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, requested

Mr. Ticknor to prepare a Memoir of the deceased for the Society's Collections; but that he had inadvertently omitted to bring the fact to the notice of the Society, amidst the affecting transactions of the special meeting held in respect to Mr. Prescott's memory.

Whereupon, on motion of the Chairman of the Standing Committee, it was *Voted*, That the Society ratify and confirm the appointment made by the President, at their instance, of Mr. Ticknor, to prepare a Memoir of our late eminent associate, Mr. Prescott, for the Society.

The President communicated the following letter from Samuel J. Bridge, Esq., presenting to the Society a copy of the form of commission which was issued by the Board of Customs in London to revenue officers at Boston, America, in the early part of the reign of George III. The commission is as follows:—

BOSTON, June 8, 1859.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, President of the Massachusetts
Historical Society, Boston.

DEAR SIR,— While I was making some inquiries, in June last, in regard to the revenue system of England, I was shown in the London custom-house a blank commission, such as the Board of Commissioners of his majesty's customs in Boston issued to the various officers at this port previous to the Revolution,—

“ In good old Colony times,
When we lived under the King.”

The plate from which this impression was taken was found, only a few days before, among some old rubbish in one of the queen's warehouses; having very fortunately escaped the fires which destroyed the London custom-house in 1787 and 1814.

I made every effort in my power to obtain the original plate, intending to present it to the Society over which you preside ; but without success. Sir Thomas Fremantle, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of her Majesty's Customs in London, in reply to my request, stated that it possessed the same historical interest to Old England that it would to New England. He very kindly, however, furnished me with six impressions; one of which I present to your Society for preservation. The plate was engraved early in the reign of George III., and, you will perceive, is dated " Boston ;" which goes to show that all the blanks, stationery, and other supplies consumed in the customs here, were obtained from the mother country. This was a grievance complained of by the colonists, and one, among many, that led to the Revolution. I desire to have the commission framed at my expense, under the direction of the Cabinet-keeper.

I am very truly your friend,

SAM. J. BRIDGE.

CUSTOM HOUSE, LONDON, April 21, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—I have been desired by Sir Thomas Fremantle, with reference to the interview you had with him this morning, to forward for your acceptance six copies of the form of commission which was issued by the Board of Customs in London to the revenue officers at Boston, America, in the early part of the reign of George III., and which have been impressed from an old plate recently discovered in this building.

I remain, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

(Signed)

F. G. GARDNER,
Assistant Secretary.

SAMUEL J. BRIDGE, Esq., No. 2, Francis Street,
Golden Square, London.

To all People to whom these Presents shall come.

We, the Commissioners for managing, and causing to be levied, his majesty's customs and other duties in America, do hereby depute and impower

By virtue whereof, he hath power to enter into any ship-bottom, boat, or other vessel, and also, in the daytime, with a writ of assistants granted by his majesty's Superior or Supreme Court of Justice, and taking with him a constable, headborough, or other public officer next inhabiting, to enter into any house, shop, cellar, warehouse, or other place whatsoever, not only within the said port, but within any other port or place within our jurisdiction, there to make diligent search; and, in case of resistance, to break open any door, trunk, chest, case, pack, truss, or any other parcel or package whatsoever, for any goods, wares, or merchandises prohibited to be exported out of or imported into the said port, or whereof the customs or other duties have not been duly paid; and the same to seize to his majesty's use, and to put and secure the same in the warehouse in the port next to the place of seizure. In all which premises he is to proceed in such manner as the law directs; hereby praying and requiring all and every his majesty's officers and ministers, and all others whom it may concern, to be aiding and assisting to him in all things as becometh.— Given under our hands and seal, at the custom-house, Boston, this day of in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord King George the Third, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and

Voted, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Mr. Bridge for his highly acceptable donation.

Mr. TICKNOR presented to the Society the subjoined copy of a proposition by Dr. Sylvester Gardiner to build

at his own cost an inoculating hospital, on a spot of land some twenty or thirty rods northward of the hospital which he built during the last war for the reception of the sick and wounded of his majesty's navy:—

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, in Town Meeting assembled, March, 1761.

The small-pox, so fatal to mankind, and to which they are so constitutionally subject, destroys near a seventh part, wherever it prevails in the natural way. This truth the town, by a melancholy experience, can evince, as well as other parts of the world. Nor is the loss of individuals the only bad consequence attending the spreading of that devouring distemper: for the trade of every place in America, where it becomes general, is much interrupted and stopped; and, consequently, thereby the public greatly suffers. Particularly at this time, should that illness spread, it would, as there has been a very large importation of goods into this town, certainly prove vastly detrimental to it, by preventing the sale of them; and might, perhaps, throw the trade which we have with Connecticut and Rhode Island into another channel: and how difficult it is to recover lost trade is well known. Moreover, when great numbers are seized with the small-pox at the same time, they cannot possibly have so good care and attendance, for want of which the lives of many are not only hazarded, but even lost. In order, therefore, to prevent the above-mentioned inconveniences, and many others for brevity's sake omitted, it is with submission proposed, that a well-regulated hospital for inoculating should be erected in a part of the town from whence there could be but little if any danger of communicating the infection to the other parts thereof; and the same to be under the inspection of the selectmen. Such a hospital, it is humbly conceived, will meet with the approbation of the public, as it will have a tendency, and must, in all

human probability, prevent that distemper from ever spreading* or becoming general in the town again, and subjecting the inhabitants to the severe hardships and difficulties they have repeatedly labored under; and will, by the blessing of God, be instrumental in preserving thousands of lives. This will most evidently appear by comparing the numbers which die of this disease, who take it in the natural way, with those that receive it by inoculation. A just and authentic computation is now humbly laid before the town.

From December, 1751, to December, 1757, there were inoculated in London, in the hospital for that particular use erected, a thousand one hundred and twenty-one, of which only three died; so that, by that computation, three hundred and seventy-three recovered to one that died, excepting some trivial fraction. In the same city, there were received into the Small-pox Hospital, of those who took it in the natural way, from the year 1746 to 1757, three thousand five hundred and six, out of which died nine hundred and twenty-six; which is somewhat less than one in four. This, it must be allowed, is an uncommon proportion; but, on considering how many of those were taken in a manner out of the streets when the distemper was advanced on them, it may be easily accounted for. In the space of twelve years, there were two thousand inoculated in the towns of Hampshire, Sussex, and Surrey, in England; out of which only two died. Mr. Ranby, sergeant-surgeon of England, inoculated upwards of a thousand, and never lost one. Mr. Winchester, surgeon of the Foundling Hospital, inoculated a hundred and eighty-six of those children, of whom only one died; and, in his private practice, inoculated

* What is mentioned here as probable, hath been, since writing the above, much confirmed by experience, by the prudent conduct of the selectmen in inducing the removal of the persons affected with the small-pox to one of the houses hereafter mentioned. That distemper, which threatened the town from all quarters, is now confined chiefly there, and the town entirely free from it, without giving the least alarm or uneasiness to the inhabitants of the town or country from any danger they are in of their being infected from that place.

three hundred and seventy, and lost but one. When that distemper, in 1721, became epidemical in this town, there were five thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine had it, whereof eight hundred and forty-four died; which is nearly one in seven. In 1730, four thousand had it here, of which five hundred died; which is one in eight. In 1752, there were five thousand and fifty-nine whites who took it in the natural way, of which four hundred and fifty-two died; which is nearly one in eleven,—a most favorable proportion: and a thousand nine hundred and seventy whites, who took it by inoculation, of which twenty-four died; being one in eighty-two,—a very unusual mortality by inoculation, and which must be attributed to numbers being unfit to receive the infection, and taking the distemper at a season of the year not so favorable to the disease; it being observed, that there was not one who was inoculated, after the month of May came in, but who did well. So that, from observation in this town, in the years 1721, 1730, and 1752, there were fifteen thousand and forty-eight who took said distemper in the natural way, of whom a thousand seven hundred and forty-six died; which, to avoid fractions, is one to eight. It is now supposed that there are four thousand to have that distemper in this town; and if, as we may reasonably hope, the good conduct and prudence of the selectmen can prevent its spreading, so as to give the inhabitants an opportunity of receiving that distemper by inoculation at the most favorable season of the year, the lives that will be saved, in all probability, in this town, by this means, will be four hundred and sixty, allowing one in a hundred to miscarry by inoculation, and one in eight in the natural way. And if four hundred and sixty lives can be saved in this town only in one season, what numbers must be saved, in all human probability, in the whole province, in the course of twenty years! and how happy will it be for the rising generation that they are delivered from the fear of this disease at an age when there was but little reflection or

danger from this distemper ! What hours and years of anxiety will they be delivered from by this early and truly prudent care of their parents !

Many of our neighboring governments have experienced the great benefit of going into the practice of inoculation, too commonly known to need recital at present. Now, in order to guard, as much as human reason can direct, against this mortal and much-dreaded distemper, by rendering it, by the blessing of God, less destructive to the human species, it is proposed by Dr. Silvester Gardiner to build at his own cost an inoculating hospital, well secured with a strong and high fence. This building will be erected between twenty and thirty rods northward of the hospital he built last war for the reception of the sick and wounded belonging to his majesty's navy. The old building he now proposes to be used as a house for inoculating the patients in : from whence they are to be removed, in a proper time, to the new hospital ; and, when recovered, to be returned again to the hospital in which they were inoculated,—there to remain till they are properly aired and shifted, so as to prevent the carrying-off or spreading the distemper. No person in town is to pay more than four dollars for inoculation, medicines, and attendance, and three dollars per week for diet, nursing, and lodging, during his or her illness. And further, said Gardiner shall be obliged to receive into said hospital all such persons sick of the small-pox that the selectmen of this town shall see cause from time to time to remove there in order to prevent the spreading of said distemper, upon paying four dollars for every such person's cure, and what shall be thought necessary for their diet, nursing, and attendance.

And, if it should be ever found more convenient for the public to have the property of this hospital, Dr. Gardiner obliges himself to pass good and authentic deeds for the same to the town, whenever demanded by the selectmen, upon their paying the first cost of the land, buildings, and utensils.

Mr. Ticknor stated that the Committee to whom this offer was referred reported against the suitability of the place, and the proposition was not accepted.

The President took occasion to say, before the adjournment of the meeting, that he was preparing to be absent from the country for a few months, and that he must rely on the indulgence of the Society to excuse him for any omissions which his absence might involve. He was quite sure that the Vice-Presidents and Standing Committee would see that the Society suffered no detriment. But, should he be detained abroad longer than such an indulgence could reasonably be asked, his resignation would always be at the disposal of the Society. Meantime, if he could render any service to the Society, or to any of its members, on the other side of the Atlantic, it would afford him the greatest pleasure to do so.

JULY MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, July 14, at noon. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the meeting was called to order by the Recording Secretary; and Hon. EMORY WASHBURN, Chairman of the Standing Committee, was chosen to preside.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the Department of State of the United States; the Essex Institute; Count